

Interlake Reserves Tribal Council Inc.

Evidence to be submitted March 25, 2015

Clean Environment Commission – Lake Winnipeg Regulation

Interlake Reserves Tribal Council Inc. (“IRTC”) will be providing the Commission with two witnesses, both of whom have lived and worked on Lake Winnipeg for many years. They will provide the commission with evidence which will demonstrate clearly that Lake Winnipeg Regulation has had demonstrable negative impacts on Lake Winnipeg upstream of Jenpeg.

IRTC will provide the panel with two witnesses, Councillor Derrick Gould of Pinaymootang (Fairford) First Nation and Elder Henry Traverse of Kinonjeoshtegon (Jackhead) First Nation.

IRTC’s presentation will begin with a smudging ceremony which will assist Mr. Traverse in providing his evidence.

Councillor Gould is a Band Councillor, farmer, commercial fisher and traditional trapper.

Councillor Gould will discuss:

- He has fished on Lake Winnipeg since 1975 in every season.
- LWR has direct impacts commercial fishing in the fall and winter due to increased flow.
- Although there has always been change, since 1970s, the rate of change has greatly increased.
- Shoreline erosion has had a dramatic impact on farmland and livelihoods of Pinaymootang farmers.
- The number of farmers and their productivity has dropped significantly in the last 15 years as a direct result of flooding and shoreline erosion.
- Traditional trappers (as opposed to commercial trappers) are able to get a comprehensive picture of the availability and condition of trapping animals.
- During the period of LWR, the trapping process has become more difficult and less productive, and the results of trapping have degraded at a markedly faster rate than prior to LWR.
- When Manitoba Hydro does consult with the First Nation, the consultation is limited and does not include Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK).

Henry Traverse is an elder from Kinonjeoshtegon (pronounced Kino-zhay-shtegon). He has been a commercial fish operator since 1978. Mr. Traverse is source of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) and a repository of traditional knowledge about the people of Kinonjeoshtegon, their relationship with Lake Winnipeg and the changes LWR has brought. **Mr. Traverse will speak about:**

- From the 1970s to today, the rate at which Lake Winnipeg has changed has continually increased.
- LWR and the construction associated with LWR has disturbed the spawning grounds of fish.
- When one compares life on Lake Winnipeg as described in the oral history of the people with the current reality there are marked differences which cannot be attributed to causes other than LWR.
- Traditionally, the people showed great respect for Lake Winnipeg.
 - For example, before crossing the lake, the people would ask permission from the Spirit of the lake to make use of the water.
- The water from Lake Winnipeg at Kinonjeoshtegon was sacred, people came from all over the lake to participate in healing ceremonies.
- As a result of LWR, traditional gravesites have been lost.
 - LWR has worsened shoreline erosion.
- Mr. Traverse may use a number of words in his language, including but not limited to:
 - *Kiipiigiin* – Dam
 - *At'sokan* and *Mitsu'um* – Two Clan System